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Enclosed herewith for filing is a patent application, as follows:

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Title: Nonexposed Heat Sink For Semiconductor Package

X Return Receipt Postcard
X This Transmittal Letter (in duplicate)
10 page(s) Specification (not including claims)
3 page(s) Claims
1 page Abstract
8 Sheet(s) of Drawings consisting of Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8, 9A, 9B, 10A, and 10B
3 page(s) Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney signed by de Simone, Christopher
3 page(s) Declaration For Patent Application and Power of Attorney signed by Kim, Gi Jeong; Kim, Seung Mo; Lee, Jin An
1 page(s) Recordation Form Cover Sheet (in duplicate)
2 page(s) Assignment signed by Kim, Gi Jeong; Kim, Seung Mo; Lee, Jin An
3 page(s) Assignment signed by de Simone, Christopher
31 Copy of Korean Patent Application 99-13130 (uncertified)
2 Petition for Retroactive License Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 5.25
2 Declaration Of James E. Parsons In Support Of Petition For Retroactive Foreign Filing License
2 Declaration Of Taebok Jung In Support Of Petition For Retroactive Foreign Filing License
2 Declaration Of Christopher de Simone In Support Of Petition For Retroactive Foreign Filing License

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	Number		Number		Rate		Basic Fee
Total Claims	Filed		Extra				
	12	-20	=	0	x	\$18.00	= \$ 0.00
Independent Claims	3	-3	=	0	x	\$78.00	= \$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fee of _____ for the first filing of one or more multiple dependent claims per application						\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fee for Petition for License Pursuant to CFR § 5.25						\$ 130.00

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NONEXPOSED HEAT SINK FOR
SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is related to an application entitled "Leadframe for Molded Semiconductor Package and Semiconductor Package Made Using the Leadframe", application no. _____ (attorney docket no. AB-816 US), which was filed herewith on February 24, 2000, and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a semiconductor package, and in particular to a semiconductor package having a nonexposed heat sink.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a conventional semiconductor package 1'. Package 1' includes a semiconductor chip 2 that is attached to a planar upper surface 5a of a heat sink 5' using adhesive 6. Heat sink 5' has a relatively large thickness (e.g., 1 to 3 mm) and may be formed of copper, aluminum, or other materials. A plurality of metal leads 7' surround semiconductor chip 2. Leads 7' are about 0.12 mm to 0.15 mm thick, and thus are much thinner than heat sink 5'. Each lead 7' comprises an encapsulated inner lead 11' and a nonencapsulated outer lead 12'. The inner leads 11' overlap heat sink 5', but are electrically isolated from heat sink 5' by a dielectric material, e.g., a layer of an adhesive tape 6a. Metal bond wires 3 electrically connect each inner lead 11' to a bond pad of semiconductor chip 2. An insulative, molded resin encapsulate 4 forms the package body and covers semiconductor chip 2, inner leads 11', conductive wires 3, and upper surface 5a' and side surfaces 5b' of heat sink 5'. Planar lower surface 5c' of heat sink 5' is exposed at the lower surface of the resin encapsulate 4 in order to obtain improved heat discharge characteristics.

Fig. 2 illustrates a conventional procedure for fabricating a conventional heat sink 5'. In

particular, a pair of facing U-shaped slots 51' are stamped through a metal strip 50'. A pair of opposing support bars 52' remain after slots 51' are stamped. Subsequently, support bars 52' are cut in a second stamping step. Since the support bars 52' are relatively thick, some elongation of support bars 52' occurs during the cutting operation. As a result, V-shaped protrusions 8 are formed on two opposing sides of heat sink 5'. This two step stamping process is used because of the substantial thickness of metal strip 50' and support bars 52'. If a single stamping step were used instead, heat sink 5' would be bent. Consequently, an additional step to flatten heat sink 5' would be required.

After heat sink 5' is cut from metal sheet 50', heat sink 5' typically is subjected to several complicated coating and treatment steps. For example, the exposed lower surface of heat sink 5' (Fig. 1) typically is sand blasted to facilitate marking and then plated with nickel. The encapsulated surfaces of a copper heat sink 5' are subjected to a well-known black oxidation process (adapted to form a CuO thin film and/or a Cu₂O thin film) that facilitates the attachment of encapsulate 4 to heat sink 5'.

Conventional heat sink 5' of package 1' and the methods used to make heat sink 5' have several disadvantages. First, as described above, heat sink 5' is too thick to be stamped out in a single stamping step, but rather requires two stamping steps. Second, because lower surface 5c' of heat sink 5' is exposed at the lower surface of the package body, the complicated nickel coating and sand blasting steps described above are necessary. Third, protrusions 8 on heat sink 5' cause turbulence in the flow of resin during the molding process, and possibly can cause the formation of undesirable voids in encapsulate 4. Fourth, because heat sink 5' is heavy, and is much thicker than inner leads 11', inner leads 11' may become bent during handling of the leadframe after heat sink 5' is attached thereto. Such a bend in the leads may cause short circuiting and may adversely affect wire bonding. Fifth, because the lower surface of heat sink 5' is exposed, a more complicated mold is required than would be used for an ordinary leadframe that does not have an exposed heat sink. Finally, excess encapsulate flashes onto lower surface 5c' of heat sink 5' during molding. Accordingly, a deflash step is necessary to remove the excess molding compound. This deflash process typically includes a chemical deflash step, followed by a mechanical deflash step using a water jet rinse.

In summary, artisans face numerous problems in the conventional use of a relatively thick, exposed heat sink 5' in conventional semiconductor packages 1', yet artisans continue to use such heat sinks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention includes a semiconductor package that has excellent heat dissipation capabilities, but does not have the numerous manufacturing problems and costs associated with a conventional thick, exposed heat sink. The applicants have discovered that comparable heat dissipation characteristics and superior package molding may be obtained with a thinner, nonexposed heat sink, rather than a thick, exposed heat sink.

One embodiment of a semiconductor package within the present invention includes a semiconductor chip encapsulated within a 28 mm square molded package body. The semiconductor chip is mounted on a fully encapsulated, flat plate (i.e., the heat sink), which may be formed of copper or other materials. Metal leads, which are much thinner than the plate, extend from a first end overhanging the plate within the package body to a second end outside of the package body. The plate may be adhesively attached to the inner ends of the leads with an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive tape, or staked to pseudo tie bars that extend from the corners of the package. The package may be used for high power applications that require excellent heat dissipation characteristics.

Various embodiments of packages, leadframes, and methods within the present invention are described in the following detailed description and in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional side view of a conventional semiconductor package 1' having a thick, exposed heat sink 5'.

Fig. 2 is a plan view illustrating a procedure for fabricating a conventional heat sink 5' from a metal sheet 50'.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional side view of a semiconductor package 1 having a nonexposed heat sink 5.

Fig. 4 is a graph depicting an example of the variation in heat discharge effect depending on the thickness of a fully encapsulated heat sink.

Fig. 5A is a plan view illustrating a procedure for fabricating a heat sink 5.

Fig. 5B is a cross-sectional side view of heat sink 5.

Fig. 5C is an enlarged cross-sectional side view of a portion D of Fig. 5B.

Fig. 6A is a plan view of a leadframe 20.

Fig. 6B is a plan view of leadframe 20 with an attached heat sink 5.

Fig. 7A is a plan view of a leadframe 10.

Fig. 7B is a plan view of leadframe 10 with an attached heat sink 5.

Fig. 8 is a plan view of a portion A of Figs. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 9A is a plan view of a portion B of Figs. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 9B is a plan view of a portion C of Figs. 7A and 7B.

Fig. 10A is a cross-sectional side view of an alternative semiconductor package 60.

Fig. 10 B is a second cross-sectional side view of semiconductor package 60 showing metal protrusions 61 of heat sink 5 joined to down set pseudo tie bars 26.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This application is related to an application entitled "Leadframe for Molded Semiconductor Package and Semiconductor Package Made Using the Leadframe," application no. _____ (attorney docket no. AB-816 US), which was filed herewith on February 24, 2000 and is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The present application claims priority from Korean patent application 99-13130, which was filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office on April 14, 1999, was provided to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with the present application, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of semiconductor package 1 within the present invention. Semiconductor package 1 may be fabricated using a variety of leadframes, two examples of which are discussed further below.

Package 1 of Fig. 3 includes a semiconductor chip 2 that is centrally mounted on a planar upper surface 5a of an encapsulated metal plate, denoted as heat sink 5. A thermally conductive adhesive 6, which may be a film or a paste, attaches chip 2 to upper surface 5a of heat sink 5. A plurality of metal leads 7 each extend from an encapsulated first end that is adjacent to chip 2 to a second end that is outside of the package body formed by encapsulate 4. In particular, each lead 7 comprises an encapsulated inner lead 11 and an exposed outer lead 12. Inner leads 11 extend over and are attached to an outer peripheral portion of upper surface 5a of heat sink 5 by means of an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive layer 6a comprised of, for example, a double-sided adhesive tape. A plurality of metal bond wires 3 each electrically connect an inner lead 11 to bond pads of semiconductor chip 2. A resin encapsulate 4 forms a package body. Encapsulate 4 completely covers chip 2, bond wires 3, heat sink 5, and inner leads 11.

In semiconductor package 1 of Fig. 3, heat is transmitted from semiconductor chip 2 to heat sink 5 via thermally conductive adhesive 6. Heat from heat sink 5 is believed to primarily exit package 1 via conduction from heat sink 5 to the overhanging portions of inner leads 11, and from there through leads 7 to a circuit board upon which the package is mounted.

Heat sink 5 may be formed of a variety of materials, such as copper, anodized aluminum, or ceramic (e.g., aluminum nitride). In view of experiments discussed below, a copper heat sink 5 for a 28 mm square high power package may have a thickness between upper surface 5a and lower surface 5c of 0.3 mm to 0.7 mm (e.g., about 0.5 mm). By contrast, copper leads 7 and conventional encapsulated die paddles (which are not heat sinks) typically have a thickness of about 0.12 mm to 0.15 mm. Thus, in this embodiment, heat sink 5 is two to 4.6 times thicker than leads 7.

Fig. 4 is a graph depicting a variation in heat discharge effect depending on the thickness of a copper heat sink. In Fig. 4, the abscissa axis represents the thickness (mm) of a heat sink, and the ordinate axis represents the value of θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$), which is indicative of thermal resistance. A lower value of θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$) corresponds to superior heat discharge characteristics.

Fig. 4 describes the results of mathematical modeling conducted for a molded quad flat pack semiconductor package having a size of 28 mm x 28 mm and 208 leads. In the model, the thickness of a fully encapsulated heat sink was varied from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm. The model results were confirmed by experiment.

Referring to Fig. 4, it was found that there was a remarkable decrease in the value of θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$) for heat sinks having a thickness ranging from 0.1 mm to 0.3 mm. It is also found that the rate of decrease in the value of θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$) is low where heat sink thickness exceeds 0.3 mm. That is, there is little incremental reduction in the value of θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$) for heat sinks having thicknesses greater than 0.3 mm.

Experiments in molding a 28 mm square package having a fully encapsulated heat sink showed that there is a tendency for voids to be formed at the central portion of the lower surface of the package body when the heat sink 5 has a thickness greater than 1.0 mm. It was also found that, when using a leadframe and a heat sink with a thickness of less than 0.2 mm, there is a tendency for voids to be formed at a portion of the lower surface of the package body extending from the air vent region opposite to the initial encapsulating resin vent region. It was also found that, when the heat sink has a thickness ranging from 0.30 mm to 0.70 mm, and in particular, a thickness of about 0.50 mm, voids do not occur (or rarely occur) during molding.

Accordingly, there is a point of diminishing returns in Fig. 4 where further increases in thickness of heat sink 5 of Fig. 3 have little effect on θ_{JA} ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{W}$). The curve will have the same shape, albeit with different numerical levels, as the material of heat sink 5 is varied amongst materials having greater or lesser thermal conductivity (e.g., copper compared to diamond). The lower limit on the thickness of a fully encapsulated heat sink will largely be determined by the ability to mold without the formation of voids. The thermal performance also will be determined

by the amount of overhang of inner leads 11 over upper surface 5a of heat sink 5 of Fig. 3, the size of the gap between upper surface 5a and inner leads 11, and the thermal conductivity of adhesive 6a (if any) and heat sink 5, among other possible factors.

Fig. 5a is a schematic view illustrating a procedure for fabricating a heat sink 5 according to one embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 5b provides a side view of heat sink 5. Fig. 5c is an enlarged view of portion D of Fig. 5b.

As shown in Figs. 5a to 5c, heat sink 5 is fabricated in a single stamping step by stamping a square loop slot 51 through a metal sheet 50 having a thickness of 0.3 to 0.7 mm, e.g., 0.5 mm. Heat sink 5 may be stamped in one step, as opposing to the two stamping steps required to form heat sink 5' of Fig. 1, because metal sheet 50 of Fig. 5a is significantly thinner than metal sheet 50' of Fig. 2 (0.3 to 0.7 mm verses 1.0 to 3.0 mm).

When heat sink 5 is downwardly punched from metal sheet 50, downward-extending burrs 9 (Fig. 5c) may be formed at the edge of lower surface of heat sink 5. To avoid tears in adhesive layer 6a of package 1 of Fig. 3, upper surface 5a of heat sink 5 opposite burrs 9 should be attached to adhesive layer 6a.

The entire surface of heat sink 5 may be coated using the well-known black oxidation process to improve the attachment of heat sink 5 to the molded resin encapsulate 4. There is no need to perform the other nickel plating or sand blasting processes described above with respect to the prior art heat sink 5', since heat sink 5 is fully encapsulated.

Other advantages of the fully encapsulated heat sink 5 of the present invention are readily apparent. First, as discussed above, the thermal performance of heat sink 5 is comparable to a thicker, exposed heat sink. Second, heat sink 5 is significantly thinner than heat sink 5' of Fig. 1, which reduces material costs and weight, and reduces any bending of inner leads 11 due to the attachment of a heat sink thereto. Third, since heat sink 5 is fully encapsulated, there is no need for the costly deflash process described above.

Fig. 10A is an alternative semiconductor package 60 within the present invention. Package 60 is the same as semiconductor package 1 of Fig. 3 except with respect to the fastening of heat sink 5 to the leadframe of the package. In package 60, adhesive layer 6a is omitted, and a small layer of encapsulate 4 is between heat sink 5 and the portion of inner leads 11 that overhangs heat sink 5. In package 60, heat sink 5 is supported in the central region of the package by encapsulated members that are separate from the leads. In particular, as shown in Fig. 10B, heat sink 5 is mechanically fastened to members that formerly were part of the leadframe used to make package 60. In this example, the members are four, down set, electrically isolated pseudo tie bars 26 that each extend diagonally from a corner of the package

body towards chip 2. (Pseudo tie bars 26 are described in further detail below with respect to leadframe 20 of Fig. 6A.) A stake-like metal protrusion 61 extends from corner portions of first surface 5a of heat sink 5 through a hole in each pseudo tie bar 26. Each protrusion 61 is stamped or swaged against the respective pseudo tie bar 26 so as to form a metal to metal connection. In package 60, heat transmitted from chip 2 to heat sink 5 is believed to primarily dissipate by conduction through encapsulate 4 to inner leads 11.

As mentioned above, the nonexposed heat sink 5 of the present invention may be used with a variety of leadframe configurations to make semiconductor package 1 of Fig. 3. Artisans should appreciate that the present invention is not limited to a particular style of leadframe, lead, or package.

As examples of the versatility of the present invention, two exemplary leadframes are described below that may be used to make semiconductor package 1 of Fig. 3. In particular, semiconductor package 1 may be made with leadframe 20 of Figs. 6A and 6B, and with a new style of leadframe, leadframe 10 of Figs. 7A-9B.

Referring to Fig. 6A, leadframe 20 is formed from a thin metal sheet (e.g., 0.12 to 0.15 mm thick copper, copper alloy, Alloy 42, or some other conventional metal) by stamping or etching. Leadframe 20 includes an inner rectangular frame formed by rectilinear dam bars 21. A plurality of leads 22 extending from dam bars 21 include an inner lead 23 and an outer lead 24. Inner leads 23 are uniformly spaced from each other. Each inner lead 23 extends from a first end integral with an inner side of dam bar 21 to a second end adjacent to a central opening 25 of leadframe 20. Outer leads 24 each extend from a first end integral with an outer side of dam bar 21 to a second end (not shown) integral with an outer frame (not shown) of leadframe 20. Pseudo tie bars 26 are arranged at four corners of the leadframe 20, respectively. Each pseudo tie bar 26 extends diagonally from a corner of dam bar 21 toward central opening 25. As is apparent from the above description, leadframe 20 has a symmetrical structure in longitudinal, lateral, and diagonal directions.

Fig. 6B shows a leadframe 20 within the present invention that includes a heat sink 5 (shown by solid lines). A peripheral portion of upper surface 5a of heat sink 5 is attached to the lower surface of inner leads 23 and pseudo tie bars 26 using a ring of an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive layer 6a. Layer 6a is shown between dash lines in Fig. 6B. Layer 6a may be a double sided adhesive tape. The inner edge of layer 6a extends slightly into the central opening 25 just beyond the tips of inner leads 23. A method of applying the tape includes first applying the tape to a heated leadframe 20, attaching heat sink 5 to the opposite side of the tape, and then curing the tape in a curing oven at reduced pressure. An alternative embodiment

uses segments of tape rather than a ring of tape. The segments of tape may be connected between heat sink 5 and pseudo tie bars 26.

As discussed above, a further alternative for connecting a metal heat sink 5 to pseudo tie bars 26 employs stake-like metal protrusions 61 that each extend from a corner peripheral portion of first surface 5a of heat sink 5, as shown in Fig. 10B. The protrusions 61 are formed by punching partially through corner areas of heat sink 5 from lower surface 5c. Each protrusion 61 fits through a hole in the respective pseudo tie bar 26. A metal to metal connection is formed by stamping or swaging the protrusions 61 onto pseudo tie bars 26.

An alternative heat sink 5 may be formed of a nonconductive material, such as ceramic. A technique for affixing a ceramic heat sink may include forming a hole in the upper surface 5a of the heat sink 5 near each of the four corners of heat sink 5. Pseudo tie bars 26 may be punched so as to form a downward-extending stake that can subsequently be stamped into the holes in the ceramic heat sink 5, thereby forming a connection that secures heat sink 5 to pseudo tie bars 26. Pseudo tie bars 26 would not need to be down set in such a configuration. Inner leads 23 could rest on the heat sink 5, since it would be nonconductive.

Figs. 7A and 7B shows an alternative metal leadframe 10 within the present invention. Leadframe 10 includes features, discussed further below, that enable easier and superior molding of the package body, reduce lead bending, and facilitate wire bonding of the leads.

Leadframe 10 of Figs. 7A and 7B may be formed of copper, copper alloy, Alloy 42, or other conventional leadframe metals. Leadframe 10 includes a rectangular or square central opening 14 where a heat sink 5 will be provided.

A plurality of metal leads (e.g., copper) extend radially around central opening 14. Each lead has an inner lead 11 that will be encapsulated and an outer lead (denoted by the reference numeral 12 in Fig. 9) that will extend outside of the package body. An outer end of inner lead 11 is integrally connected to the inner side of a dam bar 19 (see Figs. 8, 9A, 9B) of leadframe 10. An opposite free end of each inner lead 11 is adjacent to central opening 14 (Fig. 7A). An inner end of outer lead 12 is integrally connected to an outer side of dam bar 19 (Fig. 9). An opposite outer end (not shown) of each outer lead 12 is connected to an outer frame (not shown) of leadframe 10.

An initial encapsulating introduction region 18 is present at one corner of the leadframe 10 where melted encapsulating resin is introduced into a mold cavity through a mold runner. Air vent regions 17 are present at the remaining three corners of the leadframe 10. Air vent regions 17 help to vent air from the mold cavity when the encapsulating resin is introduced. A portion of inner leads 11 near free ends 13 may be plated with silver to facilitate bond wire connections.

Leadframe 10 also includes three pseudo tie bars 15 beginning at the respective air vent regions 17. Pseudo tie bars 15 extend diagonally from dam bar 19 toward the central opening 14. No pseudo tie bar is arranged at the initial encapsulating resin introduction region 18.

Instead, an encapsulating resin introduction slot 18a having a relatively large width is formed to facilitate introduction of the resin into the mold cavity.

Fig. 7B shows leadframe 10 with a heat sink 5 attached to inner leads 11 and pseudo tie bars 15 by means of a ring of an adhesive layer 6a. Adhesive layer 6a may be a double-sided adhesive tape. Adhesive layer 6a is attached to the lower surfaces of inner leads 11 and pseudo tie bars 15.

Fig. 8 is an enlarged plan view of portion "A" of Figs. 7A and 7B. Slot 18a is between at least one pair of inner leads 11 respectively arranged on opposite sides of a phantom line E that extends diagonally from one corner of the encapsulated region (denoted by dash lines 16) toward central opening 14. Slot 18a has a relatively wide portion outward of where adhesive layer 6a and heat sink 5 attach to inner leads 11, which allows resin to be introduced into the mold cavity through slot 18a without forming a turbulent or vortex flow. Slot 18a also has a relatively narrow portion inward of where adhesive layer 6a and heat sink 5 attach to inner leads 11. The wide portion of slot 18a has a width g1, and the narrower portion of slot 18a has a width g2. Preferably, the width g1 is not more than 0.7 mm, and the width g2 is not more than 0.35 mm (while still being greater than the width of the space defined between adjacent inner leads 11).

Leadframe 10 also is provided with an enlarged spade-shaped portion 15c at the outer end of slot 18a (Fig. 8). Enlarged portion 15c of leadframe 10 smoothly guides the melted encapsulating resin toward slot 18a. A slot 18c extending around the side portions and/or rear portion of enlarged portion 15c facilitates the downward flow of the melted encapsulating resin.

The inner leads 11 arranged at initial encapsulating resin introduction region 18 (or alternatively, all of the inner leads 11) have a gradually increasing width as they extend from dam bar 19 (Figs. 8, 9A, and 9B) toward the central opening 14 (Fig. 7A). Accordingly, the space between adjacent inner leads 11 gradually reduces in width between dam bar 19 and central opening 14. The increased width of inner leads 11 adjacent to central opening 14 allows easy bond wire attachment, and provides strength that reduces the possibility of bending of inner leads 11 during the handling and molding of leadframe 10. The space defined between the inner ends of adjacent inner leads 11 is preferably not more than 0.35 mm to avoid melting of adhesive layer 6a and forming voids during the molding process.

Figs. 9A and 9B provide enlarged plan views of portions "B" and "C", respectively, of Fig. 7A and 7B, which include air vent regions 17. At each air vent region 17, one pseudo tie

bar 15 and at least one pair of inner leads 11 adjacent to the pseudo tie bar 15 are arranged and extend from a corresponding corner of the leadframe 10 toward central opening 14. Pseudo tie bars 15 have a width corresponding to one or two times the width of an inner lead 11.

5 The outer end of each pseudo tie bar 15 (i.e., adjacent dam bar 19) has a spade-shaped enlarged portion 15b, that is integrally connected to dam bar 19. Enlarged portion 15b serves as an air vent member that allows air to be smoothly vented from the mold cavity during molding. A slot 18d extends around the side portions and/or rear portion of enlarged portion 15b. The air is smoothly vented from micro-ports at the three corners of the mold cavity through slots 18d,
10 which prevents the formation of voids at those corners of the molded package body. With respect to the various portions of slot 18d of Figs. 9A and 9B, slot 18d may have a width g3 of at least 0.2 mm, a width g5 of at least 0.15 mm, and a width g4 of at least 0.2 mm.

Enlarged portion 15b of Fig. 9B differs from enlarged portion 15b of Fig. 9A in that at least one information identification hole 15a is centrally formed through the respective enlarged
15 portion 15b. Information identification hole 15a is used for leadframe alignment and identification purposes, and after molding becomes filled with encapsulate 4 (Fig. 3).

As apparent from the above description, leadframe 10 exhibits a superior resin filling profile, thereby avoiding formation of voids in a molding process.

Although several embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for
20 illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention, which is defined by the accompanying claims.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A semiconductor package comprising:
 a semiconductor chip;
 a package body formed of a hardened encapsulant material;
 metal leads, wherein each lead is electrically connected to the chip; and
 a flat plate fully encapsulated within said package body, wherein the chip is
 mounted on the plate and an encapsulated first portion of each of the leads overhangs a
 periphery of the plate.

2. The package of claim 1, wherein the plate is comprised of copper and has a CuO
 or Cu₂O film on all surfaces thereof.

3. The package of claim 1, wherein an electrically insulative, thermally conductive
 adhesive layer is attached between the first portion of the leads and the plate, and said layer is
 covered by said encapsulant material.

4. The package of claim 3, wherein said adhesive layer is a double-sided tape.

5. The package of claim 1, wherein the plate is metal, and further comprising a
 plurality of electrically isolated, encapsulated members;
 wherein each said member extends from an edge of the package body toward said
 plate and overhangs the periphery of the plate; and
 wherein said metal plate is a connection with each said member.

6. The package of claim 5, wherein each said member extends from a corner of said
 package body.

7. The package of claim 5, wherein the metal plate is connected to said members by
 an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive layer.

8. The package of claim 5, wherein each said connection is between the respective
 member and a protrusion from a surface of the plate.

9. The package of claim 5, wherein the connection is a metal to metal connection between the plate and each said member.

10. The package of claim 1, wherein the plate is formed of metal, and the metal plate has a thickness that is at least two times a thickness of said leads.

11. The package of claim 1, wherein the encapsulant material is between said plate and the first portion of the leads.

12. A leadframe comprising:

a metal frame including a central region within the frame;

a plurality of metal leads extending from a first end integral with the frame to a second end adjacent to the central region; and

a flat plate supported in the central region, wherein a first portion of each said lead overhangs a peripheral edge of said plate.

13. The leadframe of claim 12, wherein the plate is comprised of copper and has a CuO or Cu₂O film on all surfaces thereof.

14. The leadframe of claim 13, wherein an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive layer is attached between the first portion of the leads and the plate.

15. The leadframe of claim 14, wherein said adhesive layer is a double-sided tape.

16. The leadframe of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of electrically isolated members extending from said frame adjacent to said leads;

wherein each said member overhangs the periphery of the plate and is in a connection with said plate.

17. The leadframe of claim 16, wherein each said member extends from corner of said frame.

18. The leadframe of claim 16, wherein the metal plate is connected to said members by an electrically insulative, thermally conductive adhesive layer.

19. The leadframe of claim 16, wherein each connection is a metal to metal connection between the plate and the respective member.

5 20. The leadframe of claim 16, wherein the plate is formed of metal, and the metal plate has a thickness that is at least two times a thickness of said leads.

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NONEXPOSED HEAT SINK FOR
SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE

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ABSTRACT

A semiconductor package having a fully encapsulated heat sink is disclosed, along with leadframes for making the package. A semiconductor chip is mounted on a surface of the heat sink. The heat sink is in an electrically insulative, thermally conductive connection with a plurality of leads that extend from a first end that overhangs the heat sink to an second end outside of the package body. A ring of a double sided adhesive tape attaches the heat sink to the overhanging portion of the leads. The heat sink design minimizes voids and damage caused by the encapsulation process, while maintaining thermal performance comparable to conventional, exposed heat sinks.

FIG. 1

—PRIOR ART—

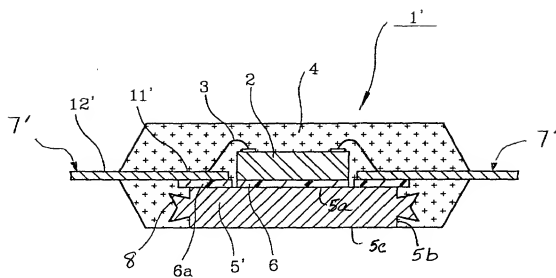


FIG. 2

—PRIOR ART—

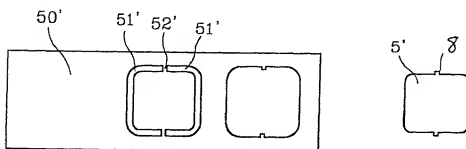


FIG. 3

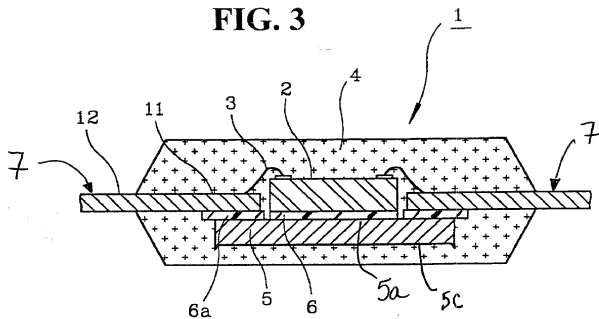


FIG. 4

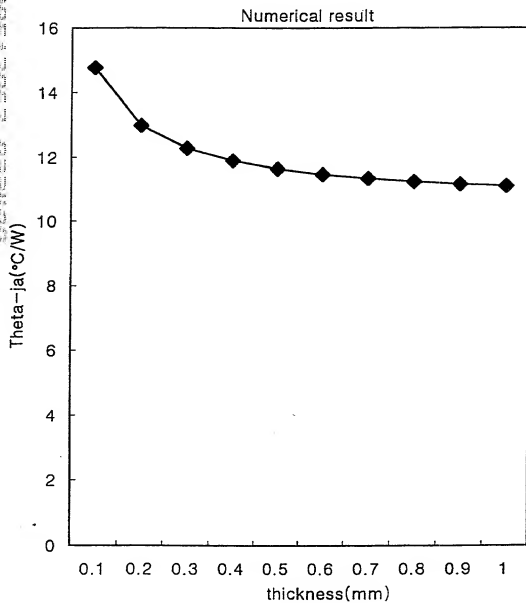


FIG. 5A

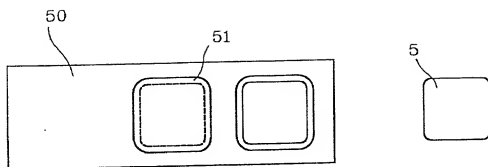


FIG. 5B

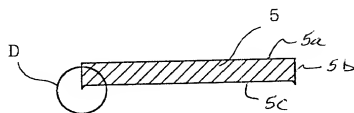


FIG. 5C

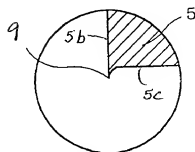


FIG. 6A

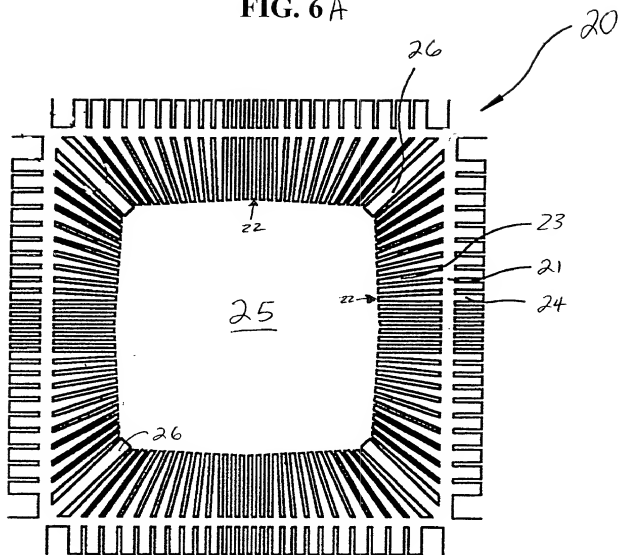
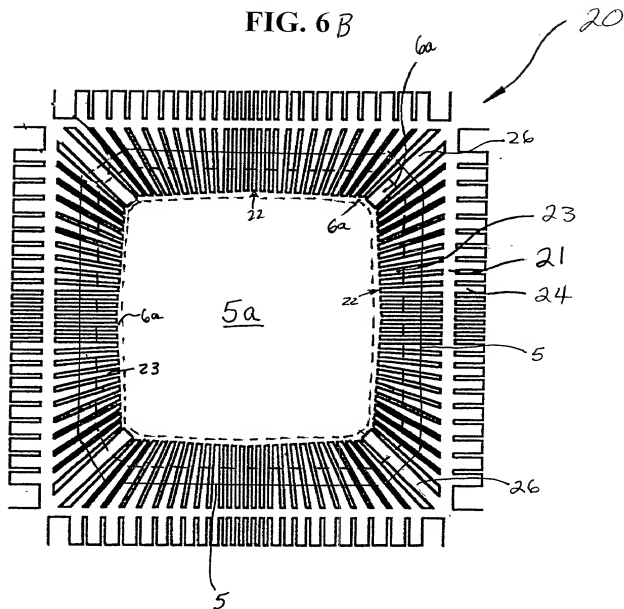
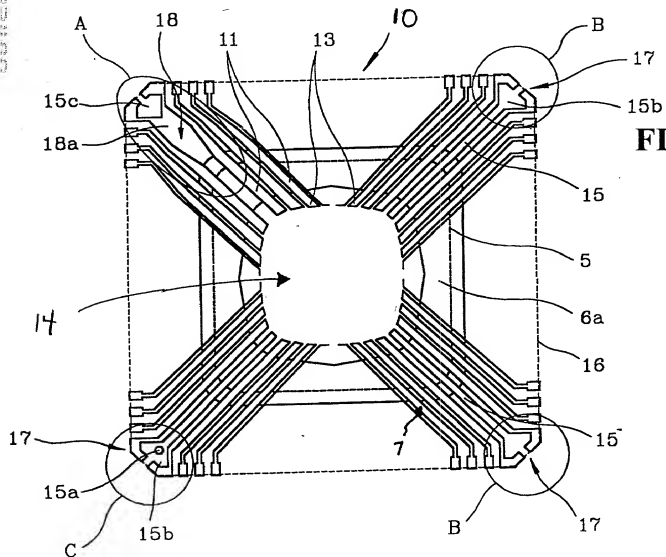
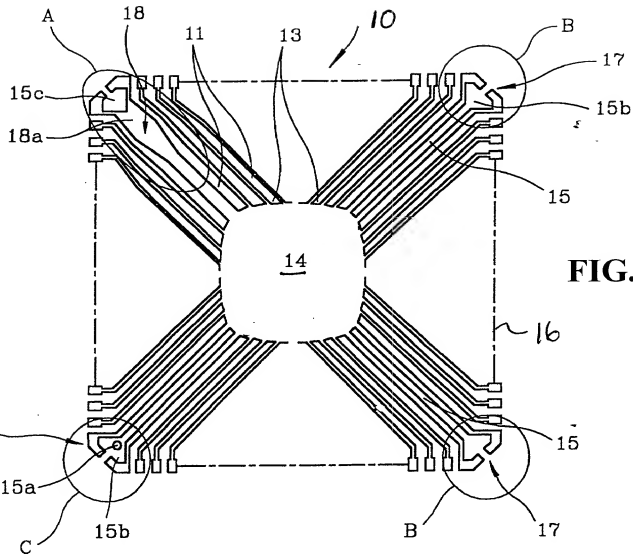


FIG. 6B





18

FIG. 8

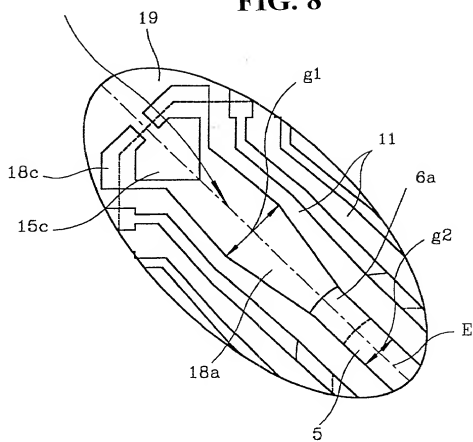


FIG. 9A

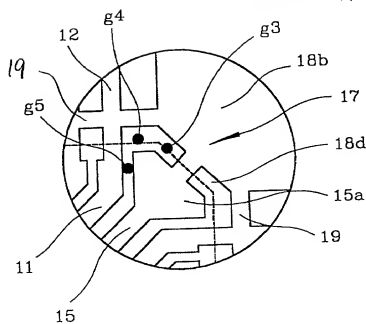


FIG. 9B

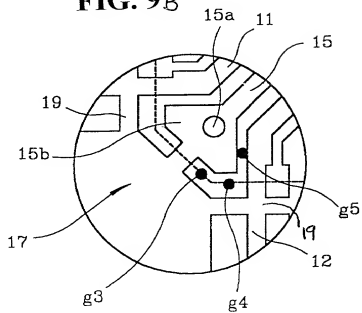


FIG. 10A

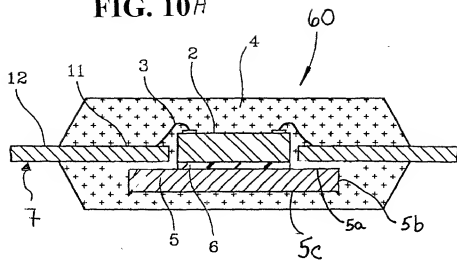
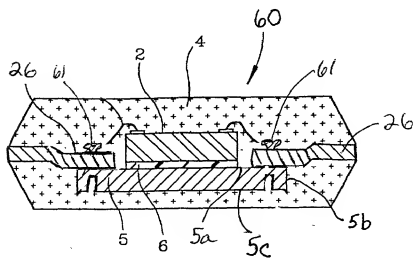


FIG. 10B



**DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled

Nonexposed Heat Sink for Semiconductor Package

which (check) ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No.
☐ and was amended on ____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
99-13130	Korea	14-Apr-99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
N/A		

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Alan H. MacPherson (24,423); Brian D. Ogonowsky (31,988); David W. Heid (25,875); Norman R. Klivans (33,003); Edward C. Kwok (33,938); David E. Steuber (25,557); Michael Shenker (34,250); Stephen A. Terrile (32,946); Peter H. Kang (40,350); Ronald J. Meetin (29,089); Ken John Koestner (33,004); Omkar K. Suryadevara (36,320); David T. Millers (37,396); Kent B. Chambers (38,839); Michael P. Adams (34,763); Robert B. Morrill (43,817); Michael J. Halbert (40,633); Gary J. Edwards (41,008); William B. Tiffany (41,347); James E. Parsons (34,691); Daniel P. Stewart (41,332); Philip W. Woo (39,880); John T. Winburn (26,822); Tom Chen (42,406); Fabio E. Marino (43,339); William W. Holloway (26,182); Don C. Lawrence (31,975); Marc R. Ascolese (42,268); Carmen C. Cook (42,433); David G. Dolezal (41,711); Roberta P. Saxon (43,087); Bernice Chen (42,403); Mary Jo Bertani (42,321); Dale R. Cook (42,434); Sam G. Campbell (42,381); Matthew J. Brigham (44,047); Glen B. Choi (43,546); Hugh H. Matsubayashi (43,779); Margaret M. Kelton (44,182); Joseph T. VanLeeuwen (44,383); Patrick D. Benedicto (40,909); T.J. Singh (39,535); Shireen Irani Bacon (40,494); Rory G. Bens (44,028); George Wolken, Jr. (30,441); and John D. Odozynski (28,769).

Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

James E. Parsons
Attorney for Applicants
SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP
25 Metro Drive, Suite 700
San Jose, California 95110-1349

Telephone: 408-453-9200
Facsimile: 408-453-7979

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and all statements made herein are made with the knowledge that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Patent and Trademark Office, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be subject to the penalties including fine or imprisonment or both as set forth under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that violations of this paragraph may jeopardize the validity of the application or this document, or the validity or enforceability of any patent, trademark registration, or certificate resulting therefrom.

Full name of first joint inventor: Christopher J. de Simone
 Inventor's Signature: *Christopher J. de Simone* Date: 2/18/2000
 Residence: Phoenix, Arizona 85048
 Post Office Address: 14417 S. 24th Place Citizenship: U.S.A.
Phoenix, Arizona 85048

Full name of second joint inventor: Lucian M. Hand
 Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Residence: Mesa, Arizona 85201
 Post Office Address: 1948 West Decatur Citizenship: U.S.A.
Mesa, Arizona 85201

Full name of third joint inventor: Gi Jeong Kim
 Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Residence: Kuri, Korea
 Post Office Address: 601-1303 In-Chang Apartment, Citizenship: Korea
In-chang dong
Kuri, Korea

Full name of fourth joint inventor: Seung Mo Kim
 Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Residence: Seoul, Korea
 Post Office Address: 252-2202 Olympic Apartment Pang-I Citizenship: Korea
dong, Song-Pa Gu
Seoul, Korea

Full name of fifth joint inventor: Jin An Lee
 Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Residence: Kuri, Korea
 Post Office Address: 402-1504 In-chang Apartment, Citizenship: Korea
In-chang dong
Kuri, Korea

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled

Nonexposed Heat Sink for Semiconductor Package

which (check) ☒ is attached hereto.

☐ and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No.

☐ and was amended on ____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Claimed	
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Yes	No
99-13130	Korea	14-Apr-99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Provisional Application Number	Filing Date
N/A	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
N/A		

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Alan H. MacPherson (24,423); Brian D. Ogonowsky (31,988); David W. Heid (25,875); Norman R. Klivans (33,003); Edward C. Kwok (33,938); David E. Steuber (25,557); Michael Shenker (34,250); Stephen A. Terrile (32,946); Peter H. Kang (40,350); Ronald J. Meetin (29,089); Ken John Koestner (33,004); Omkar K. Suryadevara (36,320); David T. Millers (37,396); Kent B. Chambers (38,839); Michael P. Adams (34,763); Robert B. Morrill (43,817); Michael J. Halbert (40,633); Gary J. Edwards (41,008); William B. Tiffany (41,347); James E. Parsons (34,691); Daniel P. Stewart (41,332); Philip W. Woo (39,880); John T. Winburn (26,822); Tom Chen (42,406); Fabio E. Marino (43,339); William W. Holloway (26,182); Don C. Lawrence (31,975); Marc R. Ascolese (42,268); Carmen C. Cook (42,433); David G. Dolezal (41,711); Roberta P. Saxon (43,087); Bernice Chen (42,403); Mary Jo Bertani (42,321); Dale R. Cook (42,434); Sam G. Campbell (42,381); Matthew J. Brigham (44,047); Glen B. Choi (43,546); Hugh H. Matsubayashi (43,779); Margaret M. Kelton (44,182); Joseph T. VanLeeuwen (44,383); Patrick D. Benedicto (40,909); T.J. Singh (39,535); Shireen Irani Bacon (40,494); Rory G. Bens (44,028); George Wolken, Jr. (30,441); and John D. Odozynski (28,769).

Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

James E. Parsons
Attorney for Applicants
SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP
25 Metro Drive, Suite 700
San Jose, California 95110-1349

Telephone: 408-453-9200
Facsimile: 408-453-7979

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and all statements made herein are made with the knowledge that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Patent and Trademark Office, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be subject to the penalties including fine or imprisonment or both as set forth under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that violations of this paragraph may jeopardize the validity of the application or this document, or the validity or enforceability of any patent, trademark registration, or certificate resulting therefrom.

Full name of first joint inventor: Christopher J. de Simone

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Phoenix, Arizona 85048

Post Office Address: 14417 S. 24th Place

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Phoenix, Arizona 85048

Full name of second joint inventor: Lucian M. Hand

Inventor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Residence: Mesa, Arizona 85201

Post Office Address: 1948 West Decatur

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Mesa, Arizona 85201

Full name of third joint inventor: Gi Jeong Kim

Inventor's Signature: *gjkim* Date: Feb. 14. 2000

Residence: Kuri, Korea

Post Office Address: 601-1303 In-Chang Apartment,

Citizenship: Korea

In-chang dong

Kuri, Korea

Full name of fourth joint inventor: Seung Mo Kim

Inventor's Signature: *shmk* Date: Feb. 14. 2000

Residence: Seoul, Korea

Post Office Address: 252-2202 Olympic Apartment Pang-I

Citizenship: Korea

dong, Song-Pa Gu

Seoul, Korea

Full name of fifth joint inventor: Jin An Lee

Inventor's Signature: *oan* Date: Feb. 14. 2000

Residence: Kuri, Korea

Post Office Address: 402-1504 In-chang Apartment,

Citizenship: Korea

In-chang dong

Kuri, Korea

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): de Simone, Christopher J., et al.
Assignee: Amkor Technology, Inc. and Anam Semiconductor, Inc.
Title: NONEXPOSED HEAT SINK FOR SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE
Serial No.: TBD Filed: TBD
Examiner: TBD Group Art Unit: TBD
Docket No.: AB-928 US

San Jose, California
February 24, 2000

ATTN: LICENSING AND REVIEW
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

**DECLARATION OF JAMES E. PARSONS IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR
RETROACTIVE FOREIGN FILING LICENSE**

I, James E. Parsons, declare as follows.

1. I am a registered U.S. patent attorney (no. 34,691). My office is at Skjerven, Morrill, MacPherson, Franklin & Friel LLP, 25 Metro Drive, Suite 700, San Jose, California, 95110 (phone (408) 453-9200).
2. In early August 1999, I became responsible for preparing an United States patent application for Amkor Technology, Inc. ("Amkor") and Anam Semiconductor Inc. ("Anam"). Amkor is based in Chandler, Arizona. Anam is based in Korea. The subject matter of the disclosure was a nonexposed heat sink for an integrated circuit package. At the time, I understood that the inventors were Christopher de Simone and Lucian Hand of Amkor, and Gi Jeong Kim, Seung Mo Kim, and Jin An Lee of Anam.

2. On August 4, 1999, I inquired with Anam as to whether the subject matter was included in a patent application filed in another country. On or about September 2, 1999, I learned from Anam that the idea of a nonexposed heat sink was included in Korean Patent Application No. 99-13130 along with several other package and leadframe ideas. The Korean patent application was filed on April 14, 1999. I had no involvement with the filing of that Korean application.

597708 v1

- 1 -

3. I received an English language version of the Korean application in late September or early October 1999. I saw that the idea of a nonexposed heat sink was one part of an application that included numerous package and leadframe ideas. I subsequently worked on a draft of a U.S. application based and sent a draft to the inventors on October 8, 1999.

4. Between mid-November and December 9, 1999, after one or both of Messrs. de Simone and Hand had gone through the draft, I confirmed with them that the idea of a nonexposed heat sink was initially conceived in the United States by Mr. de Simone, but was subsequently tested and developed further with Anam engineers in Korea when Mr. de Simone visited Anam's facility.

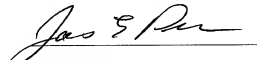
5. Thereupon, I set about to have a petition for a retroactive filing license prepared.

6. The present petition was timely filed after a reasonable period of investigation of the facts and communications with the persons involved. The amount of time taken was reasonable given that translations had to be obtained of the Korean application and that Anam's patent staff is located in Korea.

7. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own personal knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above referenced application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date:

2/24/00


James E. Parsons

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:
EL276258271US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): de Simone, Christopher J., et al.
Assignee: Amkor and Anam (jointly)
Title: NONEXPOSED HEAT SINK FOR SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE
Serial No.: TBD Filed: TBD
Examiner: TBD Group Art Unit: TBD
Docket No.: AB-928 US

San Jose, California

Date

0/14/00

ATTN: LICENSING AND REVIEW
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

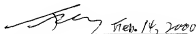
**DECLARATION OF TaeBok Jung IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR
RETROACTIVE FOREIGN FILING LICENSE**

I, **TaeBok Jung**, declare as follows.

1. I am a citizen and resident of Korea. I am employed by Anam Semiconductor Inc. ("Anam") in Korea.
2. I was responsible for the filing of Korean Patent Application No. 99-13130, which was filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office ("KIPO") on April 14, 1999.
3. When the Korean application was filed, I believed that the inventors of the entire subject matter disclosed therein were Gi Jeong Kim, Seung Mo Kim, and Jin An Lee, and that the subject matter was invented at Anam in Korea. At that time, I did not know that Christopher J. de Simone or Lucian Hand had any involvement with the subject matter disclosed in the Korean application, or that any part of the subject matter was invented in the United States.
4. The subject matter disclosed in the Korean application is not under a United States government secrecy order, and was not under a United States government secrecy order at the time the Korean application was filed with the KIPO on April 14, 1999.

4. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own personal knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above referenced application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date: Feb. 14, 2000


TaeBok Jung

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:

EL 276258271US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): de Simone, Christopher J., et al.
Assignee: Amkor Technology, Inc. and Anam Semiconductor, Inc.
Title: NONEXPOSED HEAT SINK FOR SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE
Serial No.: TBD Filed: TBD
Examiner: TBD Group Art Unit: TBD
Docket No.: AB-928 US

Chandler, Arizona
February 18, 2000

ATTN: LICENSING AND REVIEW
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

**DECLARATION OF CHRISTOPHER J. DE SIMONE IN SUPPORT OF PETITION
FOR RETROACTIVE FOREIGN FILING LICENSE**

I, Christopher J. de Simone, declare as follows.

1. I am employed by Amkor Technology, Inc. in Chandler, Arizona.
2. I conceived of the idea of a nonexposed heat sink for an integrated circuit package by at least September 1997. I initially conceived of the idea at Amkor's facility in Chandler, Arizona. By the first quarter of 1998, I was working on the idea with engineers at Anam Semiconductor Inc. ("Anam") in Korea. In Korea, I further developed and tested my idea. I also worked with engineers at Anam and developed ways to include it in a molded package.
3. I am informed that my concept of a nonexposed heat sink was included in Korean Patent Application No. 99-13130, which apparently was filed in the Korean Industrial Property Office on April 14, 1999. I was not in any way involved in the filing of the Korean patent application. At the time, I was involved in Amkor's process for initiating a U.S. patent application, but I was not aware that Anam intended to file or had already filed a Korean application. I learned the contents of the Korean application in around November 1999, when I reviewed a draft of a U.S. patent application that was based on the Korean application. It

appears that the Korean application included my concept of a nonexposed heat sink package with a leadframe and other package concepts invented by engineers at Anam.

4. My invention of a nonexposed heat sink is not under a United States government secrecy order, and was not under a United States government secrecy order at the time the Korean application was filed on April 14, 1999.

5. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own personal knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above referenced application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date:

2/18/2000

Christopher J. de Simone
Christopher J. de Simone

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO:

EL276258271 US